

Timely Hints for All Who Work on Cars

WIN A \$10 PRIZE

Each month we award \$10 for the best idea sent in for motorists. This month's prize goes to George F. Read, Everett, Mass. (Fig. 5). Contributions are requested from all automobile mechanics and if published will be paid for at regular space rates.

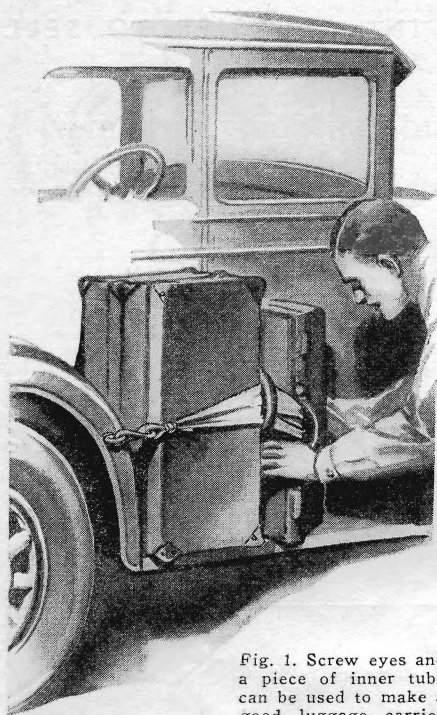


Fig. 1. Screw eyes and a piece of inner tube can be used to make a good luggage carrier

MANY forms of automobile luggage carriers have been devised for the running board of the car. Figure 1 shows a handy arrangement that is especially suited for the occasional tourist who does not want a more cumbersome arrangement. Heavy screw eyes are fitted to the rear fender and the running board pan by drilling holes through these metal parts and screwing the eye into small blocks of wood underneath. A section of rubber cut from an old inner tube is fitted with strong harness snaps at each end. The rubber strap is doubled over and through the handles of suitcases and snapped into the screw eyes. Of course the position of the screw eyes and the length of the rubber inner tube strap will depend on the nature of the luggage to be carried.

RADIATOR SIPHON

THE obvious method of removing water from the radiator to make room for alcohol or other anti-freeze liquid is to open the petcock and draw it off. A simpler method is to siphon the water out of the radiator from the filler cap opening. Figure 2 shows a way to do this without getting a mouth full of dirty radiator water. A copper or brass pipe is bent into U-shape and a double-ended rubber bulb is fitted to one end. The other end of the rubber bulb is fitted to a piece of rubber tube of any desired length, and a snap shut-off is placed on the tube just below the bulb. To start the siphon, squeeze the bulb flat and release it. Then release the snap and the flow starts at once. When enough water has been drawn out of the radiator, shut the snap valve again.

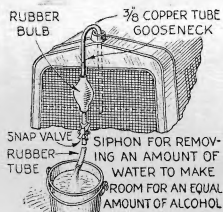


Fig. 2. With a rubber bulb fitted into U-shaped pipe, water from radiator is easily siphoned out

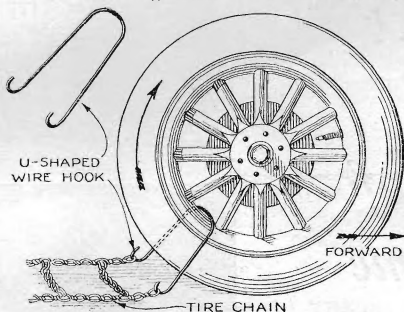


Fig. 3. You can avoid the muddy work of putting on tire chains by using a wire hook

HOOK APPLIES CHAINS

FIGURE 3 shows a clean way to apply chains to tires. Take a heavy wire and bend hooks at each end as shown. Place this around the tire between the spokes and hook into the end links of the chain, which should be stretched out behind the wheel. Now run the car forward slowly and the chain will be pulled around the tire so that snapping the chain ends together is easy.

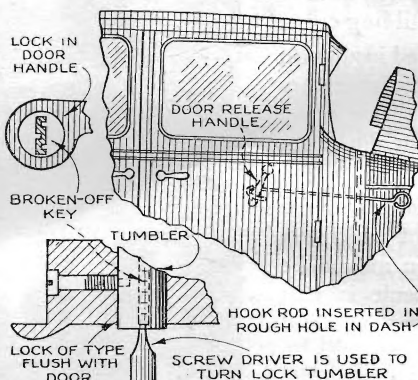


Fig. 4. A screw driver will turn a broken key, while a wire will open a car door if key is lost

WHEN KEY BREAKS

IT is awkward to have the door key of your car break off in the lock. It is often possible to open the lock under such conditions with the aid of a screw driver. The portion of the key remaining in the lock will hold the pin tumblers in the unlock position, so if you can wedge the end of the screw driver into the key slot it can be turned. A lost key is still more serious, as it usually means breaking the lock, with a repair bill as a result. Figure 4 shows a way to get into the car when the key is lost. Drill a hole through the metal par-

titution at the rear of the engine and hook the inside door handle with a piece of wire.

WINTER STARTING

FIGURE 5 shows a wiring arrangement that will make winter starting easier by automatically providing a fat, hot spark when most needed; that is, while the starter motor is cranking the engine. The

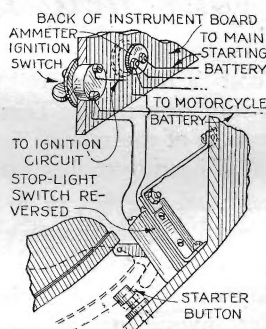


Fig. 5. Motorcycle storage battery can be installed for easy starting

equipment required is a stop-light switch and a six-volt, motorcycle-type storage battery. As you will note by the wiring arrangement, when the foot is placed on the starter pedal the current supply to the ignition system is cut off, leaving the motorcycle battery to supply "juice" while the regular battery operates the starter motor. When the foot is removed, the stop-light switch connects the motorcycle battery in parallel with the regular battery so that it is kept charged.

ANOTHER STARTER IDEA

IN OLD cars it is often noted that the self-starter does not seem to have much kick to it even when the battery is freshly charged and the self-starter motor itself is in perfect condition. This trouble is due to corrosion in the joints of the car's frame, which slow down the flow of current between the negative terminal of the battery and the frame of the self-starter motor. A remedy is shown in Fig. 6. Run the ground cable directly to the frame of the self-starter motor instead of to the nearest place on the car frame.

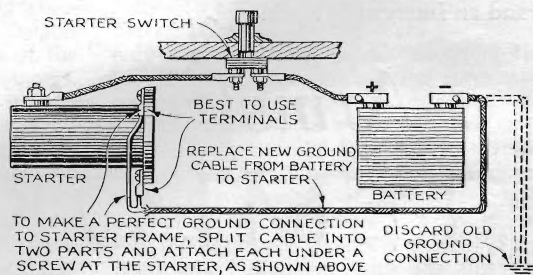


Fig. 6. Starting old cars is speeded up if the ground cable is run to self-starter frame instead of car frame